



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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John G. Rowland
Governor

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno
The Adjutant General

Kerry L. Flaherty
Director

State Requests FEMA Assistance

(HARTFORD, CT) The State of Connecticut has submitted a request for Federal Disaster Aid from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help recover costs related to the major snowfall that occurred on December 5-7, 2003. Snowfall was at record or near record levels in Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, New Haven, Tolland and Windham Counties.

In his request for a Presidential Declaration of an Emergency dated December 12, 2003, Governor John G. Rowland stated, "As a result of this event, the State of Connecticut's snow removal budget for this winter season has been severely impacted, as have snow removal budgets of municipalities in the State."

If approved, funds would be authorized through FEMA's Public Assistance program with reimbursements administered by the state of Connecticut to municipalities, eligible private nonprofit organizations, Indian Tribes and Tribal Organizations.

The National Weather Service recorded snowfall for the December 5-7, 2003 event compared to the benchmark for a two day event in each county is as follows:

COUNTY	SNOWFALL (MUNICIPALITY)	BENCHMARK (MUNICIPALITY)
Fairfield County	18.2 inches (Brookfield)	17.5 inches (Norwalk)
Hartford County	19.0 inches (Windsor Locks)	19.2 inches (Hartford)
Litchfield County	13.5 inches (Bakersville)	14.0 inches (Barkhamsted)
New Haven County	13.0 inches (Oxford)	12.0 inches (Ansonia)
Tolland County	18.5 inches (Stafford Springs)	18.0 inches (Coventry)
Windham County	20.0 inches (East Killingly)	18.4 inches (Brooklyn)

Middlesex and New London Counties did not reach record accumulations and therefore were not included in the request for assistance.

The State Department of Transportation (DOT) estimates that DOT snow removal operations from December 5-7, 2003 will cost approximately \$3.8 million. Municipal snow removal costs are not known at this time. However in previously declared snowfall events, municipal snow removal costs were nearly two times greater than State DOT costs.

State and local officials are hoping this first major snowfall isn't an indication of the winter to come. "Individuals should follow the warnings of public safety officials and stay off the roads during snow storms. We were fortunate this storm occurred over a weekend. Cleanup costs would have been higher and the number of accidents would have been greater if this storm occurred on a week day," said Kerry L. Flaherty, Director of the Office of Emergency Management.